

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

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R 040330Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4150

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, NP

SUBJ: ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES

REF: KATHMANDU 0343

1. HMG HAS TAKEN FIRST STEPS TOWARD CRIMINAL PROSECUTION OF ONE OF THIRTY OFFICIALS SACKED JANUARY 21 (REFTEL). MANAGER OF BRIGUNJ SUGAR FACTORY HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH ILLEGAL SALES OF MOLASSES WHICH RESULTED IN LOSS TO ENTERPRISE OF SOME \$20,000. CRIMINAL INDICTMENTS HAVE ALSO BEEN HANDED DOWN AGAINST AT LEAST ONE OTHER EMPLOYEE OF THE FACTORY. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE ROADS DEPARTMENT DEPTI JUNG THAPA WAS DECLARED "UNFIT" AND RELIEVED OF HIS POST JANUARY 29. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THAPA WAS TO HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN ORIGINAL LIST OF OFFICIALS DISMISSED BUT THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS DELAYED BECAUSE OF VISIT OF BRITISH AID GROUP.

2. THAPA'S FIRING MAY BE RESULT OF FACT THAT OF THIRTY OFFICIALS SACKED, FIVE OF THEM WERE EMPLOYED IN HIS DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING CHIEF PROJECT ENGINEER OF CHINESE-FINANCED BHAKTAPUR TROLLEY BUS, AS WELL AS CHIEF PROJECT ENGINEER FOR U.S.-ASSISTED WESTERN HILLS ROAD. HAVING REVIEWED LIST WE CONCLUDE THAT GIRI HAS MANAGED TO WEED OUT SOME FAIRLY OBVIOUS EXAMPLES OF CORRUPTION AND/OR

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INEFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT. MFA OFFICIAL ON LIST, FOR

EXAMPLE, RETURNED FROM MOSCOW ASSIGNMENT WITH THREE AUTO-MOBILES WHICH WERE QUICKLY UNLOADED ON THE LOCAL MARKET. WHILE GIRI MAY HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED IN PART BY DESIRE TO OPEN UP POSITIONS FOR HIS BACKERS, IT APPEARS THAT HE WAS MORE INTERESTED IN MAKING EXAMPLES OF THOSE WHO HAD FLAGRANTLY VIOLATED REGULATIONS AND HAD ACCUMULATED, IN SOME INSTANCES, CONSIDERABLE WEALTH AS RESULT OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE. CARGO

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